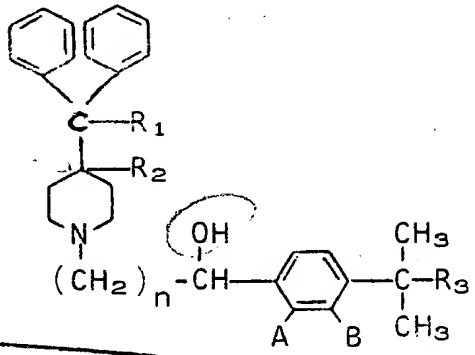
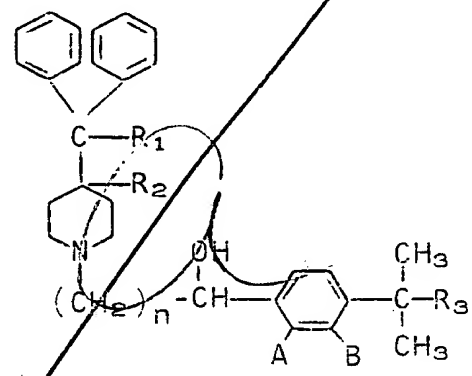
CM We claim: CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or hydroxy; R_2 represents hydrogen; or R_1 and R_2 taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_1 and R_2; n is an integer of from 1 to 5; R_3 is ~~$-CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$,~~ $-COOH$ or $-COOalkyl$ wherein the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and is straight or branched; each of A and B is hydrogen or hydroxy; with the proviso that at least one of A or B is hydrogen ~~and one of A or B is other than hydrogen when R_3 is $-CH_3$~~; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and individual optical isomers thereof.

2. An essentially pure compound of the formula



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or hydroxy; R_2 represents hydrogen; or R_1 and R_2 taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_1 and R_2; n is an

integer of from 1 to 5; R_3 is $-CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$, $-COOH$ or $-COOalkyl$ wherein the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and is straight or branched; each of A and B is hydrogen or hydroxy; with the provisos that at least one of A or B is hydrogen and one of A or B is other than hydrogen when R_3 is $-CH_3$; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and individual optical isomers thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or R_1 and R_2 taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_1 and R_2.

4. A compound of claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydroxy or R_1 and R_2 taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_1 and R_2.

3 5. A compound of claim 2 ~~or 4~~ wherein n is 3 or 4.

4 6. A compound of claim 2 ~~or 4~~ wherein R_3 is -COO-alkyl.

5 7. A compound of claim 2 ~~or 4~~ wherein R_3 is -COOH.

6 8. A compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ of the formula

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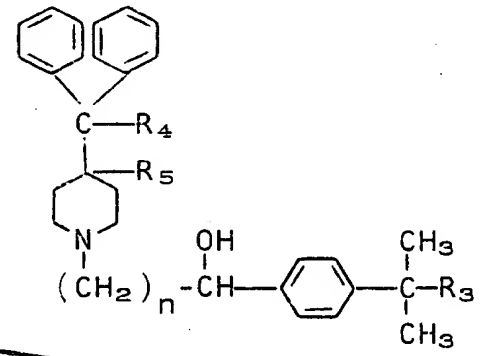


wherein R_4 is hydroxy and R_5 is hydrogen, or R_4 and R_5 taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_4 and R_5; n is the integer 3; and R_3 is -COOH or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound of claim 1 or 2 which is α,α-diphenyl-1-(4-(4-hydroxy-tert-butyl)phenyl)-4-hydroxybutyl-4-piperidinemethanol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~10.~~ 7 A compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ which is ethyl 4-[4-[4-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-piperidinyl]-1-hydroxybutyl]-α,α-dimethylbenzene acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~11.~~ 8 A compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ which is 4-[4-[4-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-piperidinyl]-1-hydroxybutyl]-α,α-dimethylbenzeneacetic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A compound of claim 1 or 2 which is α,α-diphenyl-1-(4-(4-tert-butyl-2-hydroxy)phenyl)-4-hydroxybutyl-4-piperidinemethanol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~13.~~ 9 A compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ which is 4-[4-[4-

(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-piperidinyl]-1-hydroxybutyl] α,α-dimethyl-(3-hydroxybenzene)acetic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dosage form comprising an effective antiallergic amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ and a significant amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A method of treating allergic reactions in a patient in need thereof which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

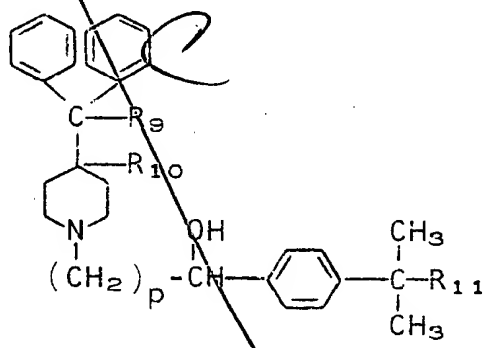
EMD

16. A process for preparing a compound of claim 1 or 2 which comprises

(a) when R_3 is $-CH_3$, -COOH or -COOalkyl and B is hydrogen, reducing the corresponding ketone and selectively followed by base hydrolysis as desired;

(b) when R_3 is $-CH_2OH$ and B is hydrogen, reducing the corresponding ketone acid or ester or alcohol acid or ester;

(c) when B is hydroxy, treating a derivative of the formula



wherein R_9 is hydrogen or trifluoroacetyloxy; R_{10} is hydrogen; or R_9 and R_{10} taken together form a second bond between the carbon atoms bearing R_9 and R_{10}; p is an integer of from 1 to 5; and R_{11} is methyl or -COOalkyl

wherein the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and is straight or branched; with a slight excess of thallium trifluoroacetate in trifluoroacetic acid, followed by 1 equivalent of lead tetraacetate in trifluoroacetic acid and 1 equivalent of triphenylphosphine, and when R_3 is -COOalkyl treating the thus formed compound wherein R_3 is -COOH with boron trifluoride etherate in an alcoholic solvent; and

(d) when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is desired reacting the thus formed compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.